

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 171248Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8293

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC; DR (VELAZQUEZ-MAINARDI, MIGUEL ANGEL)

SUBJECT: FY 77 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM

1. EMBASSY PROPOSES MIGUEL ANGEL VELAZQUEZ-MAINARDI, POLITICAL COLUMNIST, FOR 21 DAY IV GRANT (COMMUNICATIONS).

2. BORN DECEMBER 8, 1937 IN SANTIAGO, DR. DOMINICAN CITIZEN.

MARRIED, FIVE CHILDREN. ADDRESS: CALLE 2 #53, ENSANCHE PIANTINI, SANTO DOMINGO. 1956, HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES, INSTITUTO DE LA VIBORA, LA HABANA, CUBA. 1967, SOCIAL COMMUNICATION STUDIES, CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA. 1968, SPECIALIZED STUDIES ON AUDIOVISUAL INFORMATION, CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA. FORMER COLUMNIST AND EDITOR FOR NEWSPAPER EL NACIONAL DE AHORA AND ADVERTISING AGENCY PUBLICITARIA RETHO. AT PRESENT COLUMNIST EL SOL, PROGRAM PRODUCER TV CHANNEL 9 COLOR VISION AND COORDINATOR ADVERTISING AGENCY EXTENSA, S.A. FOREIGN TRAVEL: 1960, RUSSIA, CHINA CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, YUGOSLAVIA, SWITZERLAND, VARIOUS CONGRESSES; 1956-58, UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CUBA, VENEZUELA, CENTRAL AMERICA, ANTILLES; POLITICAL VISITS, STUDIES, EXILE. LIVED IN EXILE IN CUBA 1951-1956.

3. VELAZQUEZ-MAINARDI IS WIDELY-READ POLITICAL COLUMNIST MORNING DAILY EL SOL. PROPOSE HIS TRIP CONCENTRATE ON THREE MAIN AREAS:

A. OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCESS AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL.

B. CONTACT WITH COLUMNISTS AND COMMENTATORS IN MEDIA.

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C. VISITS TO VARIOUS TYPES U.S. UNIVERSITIES (STATE, PRIVATE, COMMUNITY JUNIOR) T
OBSERVE VARIETY OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION
AND MEET FACULTY AND STUDENTS.

4. VELAZQUEZ-MAINARDI'S MAIN INTEREST IS POLITICS; THEREFORE HIGHLY INTERESTED UNDERSTANDING AND OBSERVING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCESS AND ITS HUMAN INTEREST ASPECTS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS HE SPEND ELECTION WEEK IN SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZE COMMUNITY WHERE HE COULD GET FEEL FOR AVERAGE CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE VISIT REGISTRAR OF VOTERS, OBSERVATION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND/OR OTHER CIVIC ORGANIZATION POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSION LOCAL MEDIA RE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND COVERAGE, OBSERVATION STUDENT POLITICAL GROUPS AND OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD GIVE HIM FEEL FOR IMPACT OF ELECTION THAT PARTICULAR TOWN, CULMINATING IN OBSERVATION OF VOTING AND TABULATING OF RESULTS.

5. CANDIDATE INTERESTED GUAGING EXTENT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES U.S. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND OBSERVING VARIETY OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF STANFORD. POST ALSO SUGGESTS LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. VELAZQUEZ-MAINARDI INTERESTED INFORMAL CONTACT POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN LATAM STUDIES. WILLING PRESENT SPEECH IN SPANISH ON "VICISSITUDES OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICAN" OR ON DOMREP EXPERIENCE.

6. IN WASHINGTON, VELAZQUEZ-MAINARDI WISHES TO VISIT OAS AND CONGRESS, EVEN IF NOT IN SESSION. REQUESTS APPOINTMENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN. ALSO INTERESTED NEW YORK VISITS UNITED NATIONS AND MUSEUM OF MODERN ART. THOUGH A POLITICAL COLUMNIST, CANDIDATE EARNS LIVING THROUGH PUBLICITY WORK. THEREFORE VISIT TO PUBLICITY AGENCY, PARTICULARLY ONE INVOLVED IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, WOULD BE USEFUL.

7. SUGGEST ETA WEEK OF OCTOBER 18. ESCORT INTERPRETER REQUIRED. CLEARANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED.
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